



Department of Justice

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FEDERAL INDICTMENTS CHARGE DEFENDANTS
WITH SEXUAL EXPLOITATION CRIMES AGAINST MINORS

*TARGETING SEXUAL PREDATORS A TOP PRIORITY,
SAYS U.S. ATTORNEY ERIC MELGREN*

____ KANSAS CITY, KAN. – Federal indictments were unsealed Wednesday in four unrelated cases charging defendants in Kansas with sexual exploitation crimes against minors.

“Predators and pedophiles are hunting our children like prey,” said U.S. Attorney Eric Melgren. “In cases like these, our goal is to turn the tables.”

The cases being announced today, Melgren said, were filed as part of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative aimed at prosecuting crimes against children.

“Project Safe Childhood puts more federal resources into prosecuting crimes against children,” Melgren said. “Coupled with that is a program to educate parents and teens about the dangers of sharing personal information and images on the Internet.”

On Wednesday, Melgren announced the unsealing of the following indictments:

– **Roger Albert Butter**, 41, Ottawa, Kan., is charged with traveling from Kansas to Tennessee for the purpose of engaging in a sexual act with a minor, and one count of using a telephone and a computer to solicit a minor to engage in a sexual activity. The crimes are alleged to have occurred at various times from November 2003 through November 2004 in Ottawa, Kan.

If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in federal prison and a fine up to \$250,000 on the interstate travel charge, and a penalty of not less than 5 years and not more than 30 years on the charge of soliciting a minor to engage in sex. The Federal Bureau of Investigation worked on the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kim Martin is prosecuting.

– **Ronald R. Ullman**, 62, Olathe, Kan., is charged with one count of using a computer to attempt to solicit a minor to engage in a sexual activity, and one count of possession of child pornography. The crimes are alleged to have occurred from Dec. 7, 2005, to May 23, 2006, in Johnson County, Kan.

If convicted, he faces a penalty of not less than 5 years and not more than 30 years on the charge of soliciting a minor to engage in sex, and a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison and a fine up to \$250,000 on the possession charge. The Federal Bureau of Investigation worked on the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kim Martin is prosecuting.

– **Steven Shelley**, 49, Hutchinson, Kan., is charged with one count of possession of child pornography, one count of using a computer to solicit a minor to engage in a sexual activity, and one count of distributing child pornography. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in February and November 2006 in Johnson County, Kan.

If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison and a fine up to \$250,000 on the possession charge, not less than 5 years and not more than 30 and a fine up to \$250,000 on the charge of soliciting a minor to have sex, and not less than 5 years and not more than 30 years in federal prison and a fine up to \$250,000 on the distribution charge. The Federal Bureau of Investigation worked on the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kim Martin in prosecuting.

– **Brian D. Harris**, 40, is charged with one count of possession of child pornography and two counts of distributing child pornography. According to the indictment, Harrison was operating a file sharing program allowing other users of the Internet to access his computer. His computer contained thousands of movies and images available for downloading. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in November 2006 in Overland Park, Kan.

If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison and a fine up to \$250,000 on the possession charge, and a penalty of not less than 5 years and not more than 20 years and a fine up to \$250,000 on each charge of distributing child pornography. The Federal Bureau of Investigation worked on the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kim Martin is prosecuting.

Melgren urged parents, teachers and young people to educate themselves about the dangers of sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

“Law enforcement cannot do this alone,” he said. “We need the strength of the community behind us. “Children may never fully recover from the damage of sexual abuse. Therefore, as a community, we must work tirelessly to prevent these crimes. It’s not enough to simply put a predator behind bars.”

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The indictments filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.

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